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STURMINSTER RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL



Annual Report of the
Medical Officer of Health
for the year
1966

Medical Officer of Health: NOEL F. PEARSON, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector: F. HODSON, F.A.P.H.I., M.I.P.H.E., M.R.S.H.

Council Offices,
STURMINSTER NEWTON,
Dorset.

1st June, 1967.

To The Chairman and Members,
Sturminster Rural District Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit to you my Annual
Report for the year 1966.

The report is prepared and will be circulated
in accordance with the requirements of the Public Health
Officers Regulations, 1959.

The vital statistics compare favourably with
those for the country as a whole.

I am indebted to Mr. Hodson for his co-operation
and help during the year, and for his assistance in pre-
paring this report, and to Miss J. Shirley for her efficient
services as my Clerk during the year.

May I also acknowledge the happy co-operation and
assistance I always obtain from your Clerk, Mr. Harris, your
Housing Manager, Miss Bradley, and all the members of your
staff.

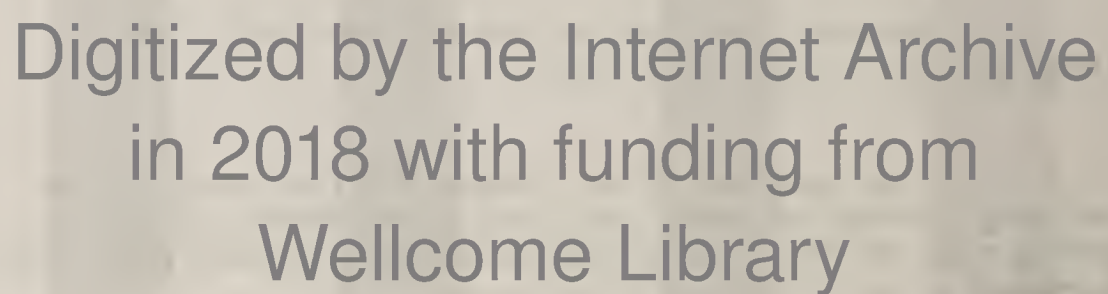
Finally, I would like to thank you, Ladies and
Gentlemen, for your courtesy and consideration throughout
the year.

I have the honour to be,

Your Obedient Servant,

John J. P. P. P.

Medical Officer of Health.



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STURMINSTER RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1 9 6 6

A. Area 45,364 acres.
Rateable value: 1st April, 1967 £231,004.
Production of a penny rate: 1st April 1966/67 .. £900 (est)
 1967/68 .. £910 (est)

VITAL STATISTICS

Population (Registrar General's Estimate)	..	..	10,190
Natural decrease in the population (Deaths over births)	..	..	36

LIVE BIRTHS

COMPARATIVE RATES

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>		<u>Sturminster</u>	<u>England</u>
				<u>R.D.C.</u>	<u>& Wales</u>
Total	62	64	}Rate per 1,000 resident popu- lation = 12.3	15.7	17.7
Illegitimate					

STILL-BIRTHS

Total - all	1	2	Rate per 1,000		
Legitimate			live & still-	23.8	15.4
			births = 23.8.		

DEATHS

Total	71	81	)Rate per 1,000)resident popu-)lation = 14.9	10.1	11.7
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DEATHS IN INFANTS

			)Infantile death		
Under 1 year	Nil	Nil	)rate per 1,000	Nil	19.0
			)live births = Nil		

		<u>1966</u>	<u>1965</u>	<u>1964</u>	<u>1963</u>
Deaths from	Maternal Causes	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
"	" Tuberculosis	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
"	" Cancer of the Lungs	4	6	5	3
"	" Other Cancer	12	19	11	20
"	" Coronary Disease (Angina)	40	23	21	25
"	" Other heart or circu- latory disease	62	67	48	59
"	" Pneumonia	6	4	9	9
"	" Motor vehicle accidents	Nil	2	1	Nil
"	" All other accidents	Nil	Nil	Nil	2
"	" Suicide	Nil	1	4	1
"	" Leukaemia & Aleukaemia	1	Nil	1	Nil
"	" Influenza	2	1	Nil	Nil

B. NATURE OF THE DISTRICT

The district is essentially agricultural in character and many of the local industries are of this nature, which include the manufacture of animal feeding stuffs, cheese making, broiler chicken production and processing, together with the slaughter of animals for 'export' meat.

In addition, glove making, the manufacture of ready mixed concrete, and the manufacture of caravans are local industries.

During the year further efforts have been made to attract new industry into the district.

C. HEALTH SERVICES IN THE DISTRICT WHICH ARE NOT THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Hospital coverage for the district is shared by the Yeatman Hospital at Sherborne, the Dorset County Hospital (both of the West Dorset Hospital Group), together with the Blandford Hospital and the Poole General Hospital (of the Bournemouth and East Dorset Hospital Group) of the Wessex Regional Hospital Board.

Laboratory Services

The Public Health Laboratory Service has once again proved co-operative, helpful and efficient.

General Medical Practitioner, Ophthalmic and Pharmaceutical Services

These are administered locally by the Dorset Executive Committee.

County Council Services

The personal preventive health services are the responsibility of the County Council.

They comprise, the care of mothers and young children, maternity, school health, prophylactic inoculation, home nursing, mental health, the ambulance service, the care and after care of the tuberculous, blind and handicapped, health education, the domestic help service and the welfare of the aged.

Domestic Home Help Service

The assistance provided by the domestic home help service is of such incalculable benefit to the needy old people, that it is difficult to re-call how these people managed before this service was instituted.

But for this service, on which increasing demands are being made, many old people would be unable to survive in their own homes.

Voluntary Services

Acknowledgement must again be made to the excellent voluntary work carried out in the district by the British Red Cross Society, the Sturminster Voluntary Old People's Welfare Committee, the Sturminster Silver Threat Club, the Rotary Club and the W.V.S.

The latter proves a meals-on-wheels service from which twenty-eight old people benefitted compared with seventy during the preceding year.

This is a most valuable service, and it is hoped that time will see its expansion. Not only are the meals appreciated by the old people, but even more (one sometimes thinks) are the twice weekly visits by helpers who take the meals around.

D. ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Medical Officer of Health - Noel F. Pearson M.R.C.S.,
(Part time) L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

He also acts as Medical Officer of Health to four other District Councils in the North Dorset area, and as Senior Assistant County Medical Officer to the Dorset County Council.

The time available which he has to devote to his duties with your Council is one half day per week.

Dr. G. B. Hopkins of the Blandford and Wimborne districts acts as his deputy during his absence on a reciprocal voluntary basis.

Chief Public Health Inspector - F. Hodson F.A.P.H.I.
M.I.P.H.E., M.R.S.H.

Assistant Public Health Inspector - A. C. Bould,
M.A.P.H.I. until
April, 1966.

The year has seen the depletion of the Public Health staff by one whole time Clerk and one Assistant Public Health Inspector.

In the place of the whole time Assistant Public Health Inspector the services of local Veterinary Inspectors have been employed to carry out the Meat Inspection formerly carried out by the Council's two Public Health Inspectors. As a result, there has been no financial saving - only the loss of one half of the services of a Public Health Inspector for general public health duties.

The preventive work of a Public Health Department (although not apparent to the Council until a crisis occurs) is not always fully appreciated. It's

work is not brought to the notice of the Council until some action by the Council is required. Nevertheless, constant supervision by the department is required to be carried out in respect to the purity of water supplies, clean food production and sale, the abatement of nuisances, and the routine inspection of housing and working conditions etc. etc. All these routine duties should and must be done. They cannot be fully carried out without an adequate staff.

Your Authority has had an adequate staff for this purpose for the past twenty years - up to a year ago, when you decided to rely on the services of one Public Health Inspector only.

During his absence (on leave, or through sickness) you have no one to cover for him. It will be necessary to rely at such times on the uncertain services of an officer of another Authority, which has sought to provide an adequate Public Health staff.

It is when a serious Public Health crisis arises that the value of your Public Health department is really appreciated, and any deficiencies in the service become apparent.

I regret having to refer to this matter in this report, but having failed to persuade the Council as to the need of an additional Public Health Inspector, I have no alternative but to record my advice in these pages.

WATER SUPPLY

The Poole and East Dorset Water Board have responsibility for the public water supplies in the district.

There has been close co-operation with the Officers of the Board. Copies of the reports of the regular weekly samples taken by the Board are sent to this office. Similarly, reports on samples taken by your Officer are sent to the Board. No samples were taken by your Officer this year.

In quality and quantity the supply has remained satisfactory.

Household Supplies. Few houses in the district lack a piped water supply.

Private Supplies.

The small parishes of Stoke Wake and Woolland have their own private supplies.

Some houses in Belchalwell and Glanvilles Wootton derived their water from private supplies.

During the year less satisfactory sampling

results were obtained from all these supplies, which have resulted in supply at Glanvilles Wootton being abandoned, and work being carried out at Stoke Wake and Woolland in an attempt to improve these supplies.

Details of samples taken from the private supplies are as follows:-

	Satis- fac- tory.	Sus- pect	Unsatis- factory
Stoke Wake	13	8	7
Woolland (main supply)	16	2	16
" (Rectory spring)	5	-	-
Belchalwell	1	-	1
Ryalls Farm, Stalbridge	-	-	3
Glanvilles Wootton	1	-	-
Cottage, Ibberton	-	-	6

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

All the major parishes have got sewerage schemes, and no serious nuisances in the district exist due to the lack of such schemes.

The surcharging of sewers with surface water has again caused trouble at Marnhull. At the end of the year a scheme had been prepared to eliminate this recurrent nuisance, and to take the additional load of sewage due to the present and future expansion in new housing in that parish.

Cesspool Emptying

The cesspool emptying service provided by the Council under Section 76 of the Public Health Act, 1936, operated by contract, has continued to operate reasonably satisfactorily.

Difficulties are still being experienced in the disposal of cesspool contents.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

A fortnightly curbside collection (with a weekly trade refuse collection in Sturminster Newton) has continued during the year.

An order has been placed for a new collection vehicle (S. & D. "Pakamatic 20") which will considerably speed up collection. This has become necessary because, apart from the fact that exis-

ting vehicles have reached the end of their useful life, the amount of refuse collected has increased by approximately 25% in bulk since 1960, and there are further building proposals within the district which might well make the purchase of another "Pakamatic" vehicle necessary during the course of the next few years.

Negotiations were continued during the year towards establishing a new refuse tip at Conygar Coppice, Okeford Fitzpaine. It is hoped that this tip will be in use during the early part of 1967, when disposal will, in the first instance be by controlled tipping. It is still hoped that ultimately it will be possible to develop a better means of disposal here.

Salvage

The following amounts of salvage have been sold during the year:-

Paper - £73.

Other - £10.

ROADSIDE SANITATION

Litter receptacles are supplied at laybys throughout the district; those on trunk roads being provided by the County Council and emptied by them, and also by our own vehicles when necessary. There is some evidence of misuse of these laybys by the public, but so far in this district this has not been of nuisance value.

RIVERS AND STREAMS POLLUTION

Once again Stourton Caundle Brook was polluted for a short time during the summer, and this was due once more to silage, as far as it was possible to check. Arrangements have been made which should prevent this happening again. Similar pollution occurred in the stream at Glanvilles Wootton.

OFFICES, SHOPS & RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

No. of inspectors appointed under the Act ..1 (part-time)	
Estimated No. of Premises subject to registration ..74	
No. of Premises registered	73
No. of Premises inspected	68
No. of inspections carried out	68

FACTORIES ACT, 1961 (Nil figures not given)

	No. of Premises on <u>Register</u>	Inspection _____	Written Notice _____
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	-	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	51	23	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	25	25	1
Total	76	48	1

	<u>Found</u>	<u>Remedied</u>
Defects	Nil.	Nil.

No. of outworkers - (Glove making) - 51.

CLEAN AIR ACT, 1956

Intensive farming has continued to create new difficulties, the most recent being smell nuisance from a chicken manure drying plant. Experiments were carried out in an attempt to eliminate the nuisance, but by the end of the year these measures had not proved to be entirely satisfactory.

RADIOACTIVE SUBSTANCES ACT

No premises in the district are registered under the Act.

SWIMMING BATHS

There are no swimming baths in the district to which the public have access, but a number of private swimming pools are in use. Those at County Schools are supervised by the County Health Department.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

One public convenience is provided by your Council in the car park at Sturminster Newton. Hand washing facilities (cold water) are supplied, but the provision of paper towels has had to be discontinued following misuse.

Once again the conveniences were left open throughout the night, without an increase in vandalism taking place.

NOISE ABATEMENT ACT, 1960

No action was called for or taken during the year.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS AND CAMPING SITES

There are three licensed caravan sites in the district. All these were for use by individual caravans.

There are no large caravan sites in the district licensed by the District Council.

Seven visits of inspection were made to the licensed sites.

VERMINOUS PREMISES

During the year, the following infestations have been dealt with:

Flea infestations	..	..	..	5
Ant	..	..	..	1
Fly	..	..	..	3
Cockroache	..	..	..	1

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

The North Dorset Joint Rodent Committee, of which the Sturminster Rural District Council is one of the six constituent authorities continued to carry out the provisions of the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.

The total number of inspections made under the Act in the district was six hundred and thirty nine, compared with five hundred and sixty five during the previous year.

RAG, FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951

There are no premises subject to registration under the above-mentioned Act within the district.

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951

There is only one property in the district licensed under the Act. This is where tropical birds are kept.

ANIMAL BOARDING ESTABLISHMENTS ACT, 1963

There is one premises registered under this Act in the district.

Under the Act, with certain limited exceptions, any person who carries on a business of providing accommodation for other people's animals, even in a private house, must be registered under this Act by the District Council.

SCHOOLS (INCLUDING SCHOOL CANTEENS)

Regular inspections of school canteens have shewn a consistently high standard of hygiene.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS, 1948 & 1951 - Section 47

Once again, I am pleased to report that no statutory action was required to be taken during the year under these Acts for the compulsory removal of an old person requiring care and attention, to an Institution.

Persons of this category are no unknown. One is, however, most reluctant to initiate action under this Act unless the welfare of other persons is seriously interfered with. It is rarely in the true interests of the persons themselves, when compulsory removal is so often followed by early demise, which cannot be dis-associated from the compulsory removal.

HOUSING

No. of houses in the district 3,555

Inspection of dwelling houses during the year:

No. of dwelling houses inspected during the year	236
No. of inspections made	508
No. of informal notices served	16
No. of informal notices complied with	8
No. of statutory notices served	3
No. of statutory notices complied with	3
No. of houses reported under Section 16 of the Housing Act, 1958	3

Action taken by the Local Authority in respect of such houses:

Demolition Orders made Nil

Undertakings accepted for:

Closure	Nil
Reconditioning	Nil
Other action	3

No. of houses included in Clearance Areas during the year Nil

Overcrowding

No case of statutory overcrowding was found during the year.

Slum Clearance

There are few houses in the district which remain 'unfit' within the statutory definition of unfitness, and slum clearance therefore presents no problem.

New Housing

Thirty seven new houses were erected by private enterprise, compared with sixty in the previous year.

No dwellings were built by the Council.

The long awaited new group of old people's dwellings at Brinsley Close, to be provided by the Council, and the group at Highfields, Sturminster Newton to be provided by the Hanover Housing Association, it is anticipated will be completed before the end of 1967.

Houses Let in Lodgings

No houses are known to be let in lodgings.

Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954

No applications were received during the year for certificates of disrepair under the above-mentioned Act.

Improvement Grants

Seventeen applications were received during the year in respect of standard, and five in respect of discretionary grants, compared with twenty one and four respectively during the preceding year.

Re-housing

During the year fifty one applicants were housed by the Council. At the end of the year there were one hundred and eleven applicants on the waiting list, compared with one hundred and three a year previously.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES

1. Milk

Milk & Dairies (General) Regulations, 1959

No. of 'dealers' subject to registration by the District Council		Nil
--	---------	-----

No. of 'dairies' in the district subject to registration		2
--	---------	---

No. of 'distributors' subject to registration		11
---	---------	----

Samples

To avoid duplication, routine sampling of milk in the district is carried out by officers of the County Council only. Thirty samples were taken during the year, of which three failed the prescribed test.

Brucellosis

No samples of milk were submitted by your officers for examination for Brucella infection. Routine examination of samples is made by the County staff, and positive results notified. Five positive results in your district were notified during the year. Appropriate action was taken in each case to check that all milk sold was subject to adequate heat treatment.

Milk & Dairies (General) Regulations, 1959. Regulations 19-20

No action was called for or taken during the year.

Salmonellosis infection amongst farm animals (principally calves) is an increasing public health hazard.

When notification of this infection is received from the Divisional Veterinary Officer, enquiries are made at the farm so that appropriate advice can be given to prevent the spread to members of the farm workers' families or the general public through the milk supply.

Unfortunately it is by no means certain that all instances come to notice as there is no statutory duty placed on a farmer or private veterinary surgeon to notify such outbreaks amongst farm animals, either to the Divisional Veterinary Officer or the District Medical Officer of Health.

2. Other Food Premises

The number of food premises in the area, by type of business subject to Food Hygiene (General) Regulations 1960.

Trade	No. of Premises	No. of Premises fitted to com- ply with Reg.16.	No. of Premises to which Reg.19 applies	No. of Premises fitted to com- ply with Reg.19.
Hotels	8	8	8	8
Cafes	4	4	4	4
Public Houses	20	20	20	18
Clubs	4	4	4	4
Church Halls	4	4	4	4
Canteens-Schools	12	12	12	12
Confectioners	6	6	-	-
Meat and Fish	10	10	10	10
Grocers	24	24	14	14
Mixed Stores	19	17	10	10
Boarding Schools	3	3	3	3
Food Factories	7	7	7	7
Others	14	14	14	14
	—	—	—	—
Total	135	133	110	108
	—	—	—	—

No. of food premises subject to registration under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, in respect of:

Ice Cream	..	..	..	..	50
Sausages & Prepared Meats	..	..	..	..	11
Fish & Chips	..	..	..	..	2

One hundred and ten of the premises were inspected during the year, two hundred and seven inspections being carried out, against six hundred and seventeen during the preceding year.

Food Inspection

Forty seven samples of meat or meat products were submitted for bacteriological examination. Of these, eight gave unsatisfactory results.

Fifty three swabbings of equipment were carried out, five giving unsatisfactory results.

THE LIQUID EGG (PASTEURISATION) REGULATIONS, 1963

There are no liquid egg pasteurisation plants in the district, and no samples of liquid egg were subject to the Alpha Amylase test.

POULTRY INSPECTION

The following information is particularly asked for by the Ministry of Health.

No. of poultry processing premises within the district	3
No. of visits to these premises	5
Total No. of birds processed during the year	
Type of birds processed - e.g. turkeys, ducks, hens, broilers, capons, etc.	No information available.
Percentage of birds rejected as unfit for human consumption.	
Weight of poultry condemned as unfit for human consumption.	
Comments on poultry processing and inspection.	

DISEASES OF ANIMALS (WASTE FOODS) ORDER, 1957

There is one licensed premises in the district, which is not at present in use.

Meat Inspection

There are two licensed slaughterhouses and one knackery yard in the district.

During the year local authorities were given power to control the days and times of slaughtering and this has meant little significant difference within this district, as slaughtering hours have for the past few years been held at reasonable levels following a fairly strong line by the Council some years ago.

From April onwards meat inspection was successfully carried out on behalf of the Council by local Veterinary Surgeons. The results of inspection are tabulated on the following page. The figures relate to eleven months only. It is regretted that the figures for June are not available.

Carcases and Offal Inspected and Condemned

1966

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	640	3900	688	1524	346
Number inspected	640	3900	688	1524	346
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	13	132	72	45	28
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	163	2393	110	450	93
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	27.5	64.5	26.4	32.1	35.0
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	-
<u>Cysticercosis</u>					
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	10	13	-	-	-
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	10	13	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-

In addition to the above animals, 44 goats were slaughtered and inspected. Five were found to be unfit in whole or part.

SUMMARY OF SANITARY INSPECTIONS (INCLUDING HOUSING)
CARRIED OUT

Total No. of inspections (under all headings)	2,080
Total No. of informal notices served	23
Total No. of informal notices complied with...	12
Total No. of statutory notices served	3
Total No. of statutory notices complied with..	3
No. of prosecutions	1

E. NOTIFIABLE DISEASE

Other than tuberculosis:

<u>Disease</u>	<u>Total Cases Notified</u>
Measles	68
Erysipelas	3
Whooping Cough	2
Sonne Dysentery	2

Tuberculosis:

	<u>New Cases Notified</u>	
	<u>Respiratory</u>	<u>Non-Respiratory</u>
	1	1

Food Poisoning

Two cases of suspected food poisoning were notified during the year, a further case being ascertained. As the persons concerned were involved in the preparation of food for sale, action under Section 41 of the Public Health Act had to be taken to prevent them carrying on their usual business.

NOEL F. PEARSON

Medical Officer of Health.

